

University of Central Missouri
Board of Governors
Plenary Session
December 13, 2024

The University of Central Missouri (UCM) Board of Governors convened in Plenary Session on December 13, 2024, at 1:00 p.m. in the Elliott Student Union, Room 237B on UCM's main campus in Warrensburg, Missouri. Presiding over the meeting was Board President John Collier. Others participating in the meeting were Governors Stephen Abney, Phyllis Chase, Mary Dandurand, Stu Rogers, Gus Wetzel II, and Ken Weymuth, as well as University President Roger Best, General Counsel Lindsay Chapman, and Assistant Board Secretary Kristen Plummer. Student Governor Hadley Oden was unable to attend the meeting and was excused.

Call to Order - Agenda Item No. 1

Mr. Collier called the meeting to order and determined a quorum was present to conduct business.

Remarks by the Board President – Agenda Item No. 2

Mr. Collier welcomed those attending the meeting in person and watching online. He noted that commencement is a very special time on campus and shared a personal story about an ice storm during finals week of his last semester before graduating.

Remarks by the University President – Agenda Item No. 3

President Best stated the last few weeks have been great on campus and highlighted a few special seasonal events held for faculty, staff, and students including the First Lady's Holiday Concert, Jingle on the Quad, Holiday Market, and Moonlight Breakfast, as well as the opportunity for employees to visit Powell Gardens. He encouraged employees to rest over the upcoming break. President Best formally introduced Dr. Tim Crowley as the new UCM Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs. He also introduced a special guest in attendance, Dr. Shadow Robinson, Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs at the University of Arkansas Fort-Smith. He was visiting campus to shadow President Best as part of the Association of Governing Boards (AGB) Institute for Leadership and Governance.

Emeritus Status Requests and Recognitions – Agenda Item No. 4

President Best stated the following individuals qualified for emeritus status in accordance with BOG Policy 2.1.070 – *Privileges Extended to Emeriti and Retired Employees* (Attachment 1):

- Mr. Donald DeBoard (December 16, 2009 – December 31, 2024), Coordinator, Ignition Interlock Device
- Dr. James Graham (May 26, 2000 – December 31, 2024), Associate Vice President for Information Systems and Chief Information Officer
- Dr. James Loch (August 22, 1994 – December 31, 2024), Professor
- Dr. Sarah (Sally) Zellers (August 14, 2003 – December 31, 2024), Professor

Mr. Abney moved that the Board of Governors approve emeritus status for Mr. Donald DeBoard, Dr. James Graham, Dr. James Loch, and Dr. Sarah (Sally) Zellers. Dr. Wetzel seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Board President Collier and President Best were joined by Doug Thomas, President of the Emeriti and Retiree Association, to take photographs of the presentation of certificates to Mr. Deboard, Dr. Graham, and Dr. Loch. A certificate will be mailed to Dr. Sally Zellers, who could not attend.

Plenary Session

Consent Agenda – Agenda Item No. 5

Mr. Collier asked for a motion to approve the following Consent Agenda items:

Action

- October 24, 2024, Work Session, Plenary Session, and Work Session with the Alumni Foundation Board of Directors minutes
- A new certificate in Electrified Vehicle Systems, effective Fall 2025, pending approval by the Missouri Department of Higher Education and Workforce Development (MDHEWD)/Coordinating Board for Higher Education (CBHE) (Attachment 2)
- A program name change from Design and Drafting Technology to Engineering Design Technology, effective Fall 2025, pending approval by the MDHEWD/CBHE (Attachment 3)
- Academic calendar for the academic year (AY) 2027-28 through AY 2029-30, with the amendment to the date listed for the 2027 Thanksgiving holiday to Thursday, November 25, 2027, and the holidays for AY 2025-26 (Attachment 4).

Mr. Abney moved that the Board of Governors approve the items listed under the Consent Agenda. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dandurand and carried unanimously.

Reports/Updates

Verbal Governance Groups Reports – Agenda Item No. 6

Faculty Senate – Dr. Jaimee Hartenstein, Faculty Senate President, provided an update on the Faculty Senate’s activities for the academic year. She shared that the Faculty Senate committees are full of faculty members and staff appointees. One of the Faculty Senate’s most significant accomplishments has been the faculty workload policy, which has received support from President Best and Provost Crowley, and they look forward to its implementation, hopefully in Fall 2025. Dr. Hartenstein provided an overview of the additional motions passed and moved forward to President Best, including revisions to the academic honesty policy and electronically delivered course guidelines as well as a recommendation for an across-the-board salary increase and funding for faculty merit pay. She stated that the Faculty Senate’s focus for the spring semester will be reviewing and revising academic policies. Dr. Hartenstein reported another great accomplishment for the semester was hosting the Faculty Teaching and Research Conference, which included 16 faculty presenters and over 80 registered attendees.

Staff Council – Ms. Rae Clements, Staff Council President, reported the semester has been busy and productive for the Staff Council and highlighted the accomplishments. She shared that one of the most impactful moments of the semester was Staff Council advocating for staff well-being during the holiday season by requesting President Best reconsider the decision to keep the university open on December 24, 2024. On behalf of the Staff Council, Ms. Clements thanked him for deciding to close the university on December 23 and 24, 2024, noting it has significantly impacted staff moral. The Staff Council has hosted several guest speakers at the monthly meetings throughout the semester including President Best, Provost Crowley, and Human Resources and Public Safety representatives. A professional development outing was hosted by the Staff Council in November, which allowed staff to tour Prussing Farm and Skyhaven Airport. The Welcome Committee distributed 34 welcome bags for new staff members since the beginning of July. The Professional Development Committee has been tasked with exploring training opportunities in artificial intelligence and how it applies to staff positions. Ms. Clements reported a recommendation for staff salary increases was submitted to President Best, considering the expected changes to the minimum wage. She thanked the Board for their continued support of the Staff Council and commitment to shared governance at UCM.

Student Government Association (SGA) – Ms. Karlie Franklin, SGA President, reported SGA wrapped up the semester by decorating the Student Recreation and Wellness Center for the holiday season and participating in the Jingle on the Quad tree decorating contest. SGA also collected canned goods from the community to donate to the Campus Cupboard, and the SGA Executive Board passed out donuts to students during finals week. Six members of SGA served on the student funding committee, where they decided how to distribute student fees to student organizations that requested either travel or programming funds. Over \$50,000 was allocated for the Spring 2025 semester. Overall, Ms. Franklin shared it had been a great semester, and they have been pleased with the amount of involvement through SGA, which includes representation from every college and many registered student organizations. She shared next semester's plans for SGA, which include visiting the Missouri State Capitol and hosting the memorial service and SGA Excellence in Governance and Excellence in Service award ceremonies.

Legislative Update – Agenda Item No. 7

Mr. David Pearce, Executive Director for Governmental Relations, provided a legislative update (Attachment 5), which began with an overview of the election results at both the national and state levels as well as a look at the issues that will likely be addressed within the first few months of the legislative session. In Missouri, Mr. Pearce stated it is important to be aware of tight budget constraints for general revenue in the upcoming fiscal year, which will begin on July 1, 2025. He reported that the consensus revenue estimate for the upcoming year has been targeted at 1.6% and said that this is a low, conservative estimate. Governor-Elect Mike Kehoe's State of the State Address is scheduled for January 28, 2025, which will be when he unveils his budget priorities and will provide a better idea of what he is planning for higher education along with the entire state budget. Pre-filing of legislation began on December 1, 2024, and of the 1,088 bills that have been filed to date, 86 deal with higher education in some way.

Mr. Pearce shared that KMOS staff had the opportunity to interview Governor Mike Parson regarding his term in office along with Governor-Elect Kehoe, several Supreme Court justices, and statewide officials for a show that was organized by Josh Thomlison, Director of

Broadcasting Services and General Manager for KMOS-TV, and Scott Faughn, host for *This Week in Missouri Politics*. Mr. Pearce also shared highlights from visits to campus by elected officials including Governor Parson, Representative Rodger Reedy, Representative Brad Pollitt, and USDA Rural Development District Director Travis Zimmerman. Mr. Pearce also reported on the recent presentation made by UCM employees regarding workforce development to the House Special Interim Committee on Workforce Innovation and Technology Hearing.

University Update – Agenda Item No. 8

President Best referenced the annual personnel report (Attachment 6) prepared by Human Resources and distributed to the Board by email before the meeting. He shared that under Provost Crowley’s direction, the search process has commenced to fill the positions of the Dean for the College of Education, Dean for the Harmon College of Business and Professional Studies, and Vice Provost for Academic Programs and Dean of the Graduate School. President Best also announced the President’s Gala, which benefits the UCM School of Visual and Performing Arts, will be held at the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts on April 22, 2025.

Board Committee on Student Engagement and University Advancement

The Board Committee on Student Engagement and University Advancement did not meet this month.

Board Committee on Academic Affairs

Dr. Phyllis Chase, Chair of the Board Committee on Academic Affairs, reported that the Committee met earlier in the day and had three items that were approved on the Consent Agenda.

Board Committee on Finance and Administration

Mr. Stu Rogers, Chair of the Board Committee on Finance and Administration, invited Mr. Bill Hawley, Vice President for Finance and Operations, forward to present the following agenda items.

Proposed New Course Fees – Agenda Item No. 9

Mr. Hawley referred the Board to Tab 8 of the meeting materials containing information for a proposal to add the following new course fees effective August 2025 (Attachment 7):

AGRI 2331	\$25
AGRI 2430	\$16
AGRI 3130	\$400
AGRI 3810	\$20
ENGT 1020	\$25
ENGT 4032	\$20

Mr. Abney moved that the Board of Governors approve the course fees listed above, effective August 2025. The motion was seconded by Ms. Dandurand and carried unanimously.

Proposed Revised Course Fees – Agenda Item No. 10

Mr. Hawley referred the Board to Tab 9 of the meeting materials containing information for a proposal to revise the following course fees effective August 2025 (Attachment 8):

CD 4802	\$85 (currently \$340)
CD 4803	\$45 (currently \$15)
CD 5810	\$240 (currently \$340)
CHEM 1104	\$29 (currently \$15)
CHEM 1131	\$38 (currently \$13)
CHEM 1132	\$31 (currently \$19)
CJ 3005	\$25 (currently \$15)
FAME 1450	\$60 (currently \$20)
FAME 2450	\$60 (currently \$20)
PE 1220	\$50 (currently \$32)

Mr. Abney moved that the Board of Governors approve the recommended revisions to the course fees listed above, effective August 2025. Mr. Rogers seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

Mr. Hawley reported to the Board that during the Committee on Finance and Administration meeting held earlier in the day, he received notification from Standard and Poor's that the university received an A+ rating with a stable outlook for the third straight year.

Board Business

Other Business – Agenda Item No. 11

There was no other business to discuss.

Request for Closed Session - December 13, 2024 – Agenda Item No. 12

Ms. Dandurand moved pursuant to the Missouri Revised Statutes, Section 610.021, that the UCM Board of Governors resume meeting in closed meeting, with closed record and closed vote, for the purpose of considering real estate matters, legal actions, contractual matters, personnel matters, and other matters included under Section 610.021 of the Missouri Revised Statutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Rogers and carried with the following roll call vote:

<i>Gus Wetzel</i>	<i>aye</i>	<i>John Collier</i>	<i>aye</i>
<i>Stephen Abney</i>	<i>aye</i>	<i>Mary Dandurand</i>	<i>aye</i>
<i>Phyllis Chase</i>	<i>aye</i>	<i>Stu Rogers</i>	<i>aye</i>
<i>Ken Weymuth</i>	<i>aye</i>		

Prior to resuming Closed Session, the Board visited with Dr. Shadow Robinson as a professional development experience for the AGB Institute for Leadership and Governance. The conversation allowed Dr. Robinson, an aspiring university president, to seek advice regarding the dynamics of an ideal working relationship between a president and campus governing board. The conversation concluded at 2:10 p.m., and Dr. Robinson departed.

Adjournment – Agenda Item No. 13

Following the conclusion of Closed Session, the Board returned to Plenary Session at 4:20 p.m., and *Ms. Dandurand made a motion for adjournment. The motion was seconded by Mr. Abney and carried unanimously.* The meeting adjourned at 4:21 p.m.

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Attachments Listing

<u>Attachment No.</u>	<u>Attachment Description</u>
1	Emeritus Status Requests & Recognitions
2	New Undergraduate Certificate – Electrified Vehicle Systems
3	Program Name Change – Design and Drafting Technology
4	Academic Calendar (AY 2027-28 through 2029-30) and Holidays (AY 2025-26)
5	Legislative Update
6	Annual Personnel Report
7	Proposed New Course Fees
8	Proposed Revised Course Fees